

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please replace the Abstract on the title page of the PCT application with the following Abstract. A clean copy of the Abstract identified as page 10 is attached for scanning purposes by the USPTO. No new matter has been added.

A method and a device for protecting a vessel's loading space, the hold (1) of the vessel being provided with cargo pressure tanks (12), from excess pressure if a gas leakage should occur in the hold (1), the vessel being provided with a ventilating duct (8) which is separated in a gastight manner from the remaining rooms of the vessel and extends along the hold (1) of the vessel.

A B S T R A C T

A method and a device for protecting a vessel's loading space, the hold (1) of the vessel being provided with cargo pressure tanks (12), from excess pressure if a gas leakage
5 should occur in the hold (1), the vessel being provided with a ventilating duct (8) which is separated in a gastight manner from the remaining rooms of the vessel and extends along the hold (1) of the vessel.

(Fig. 3)